

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MONROV 00251 130734Z

ACTION DLOS-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 NEA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07 AGRE-00
AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00
H-01 INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
NSF-01 OES-06 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 SAL-01 /127 W

-----130904Z 026585 /23-12

R 130640Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3197

INFO AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MONROVIA 0251

CASABLANCA FOR FISHERIES ATTACHE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLOS, EFIS, LI

SUBJECT: LIBERIAN MARITIME BOUNDARIES

REF: MONROVIA 0190

1. IN A CONVERSATION WITH THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR JANUARY 12, DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE ROLAND BARNES STATED THAT HE HAD DRAFTED THE EXECUTIVE ORDER EXTENDING THE TERRITORIAL SEA OF LIBERIA TO 200 MILES, AND CONFIRMED THAT THE ORDER WAS A DIRECT RESULT OF TENSIONS BETWEEN THE GOL AND THE GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE ARISING FROM GOSL SEIZURE OF GOL FISHING VESSELS (76 FREETOWN 4142).

2. BARNES' ATTITUDE TOWARD THE EXECUTIVE ORDER WAS AMBIVALENT. ON THE ONE HAND HE AFFIRMED THAT THE ORDER WAS COMPLETE IN ITSELF, REQUIRING NO FURTHER DEFINITIO (IN SEEMING CONTRADICTION TO THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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VIEWS OF JOE KELLER, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS, MINISTRY OF FINANCE, AS REPORTED IN REFTEL). ON THE OTHER, BARNES REPEATED THREE TIMES THAT THE POSITION OF THE GOL CONCERNING THE EXTENT OF ITS TERRITORIAL SEA WAS "FLEXIBLE", AND THAT ADJUSTMENTS

COULD BE MADE IN ITS CLAIMS IF "THE CAUSE OF INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE, HARMONY AND PEACE SO REQUIRED."

3. COMMENT: IT SEEMS PROBABLE THAT PRESIDENT TOLBERT ORDERED THE 200-MILE EXTENSION OF TERRITORIAL SEA AS A MEANS OF REACTING QUICKLY TO THE BOAT SEIZURES BY THE GOSL, AND WITHOUT ADEQUATE CONSULTATION AMONG CONCERNED AGENCIES OF THE GOL.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: THE EMBASSY REQUESTS THE DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS ON WHAT IMPACT THIS GOL ACTION WILL HAVE ON LOS NEGOTIATIONS AND WHETHER OR NOT SOME FORM OF EMBASSY DEMARCHE IS ADVISABLE AT THIS TIME.
CARTER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TERRITORIAL SEA LIMIT, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, FISHING DISPUTES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Subject: LIBERIAN MARITIME BOUNDARIES
TAGS: PLOS, EFIS, LI, SL, (TOLBERT, WILLIAM R), (BARNES, ROLAND)
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